

On July 13, 2019,  
Willem van Spronsen  
was shot and killed  
while sabotaging the  
vehicles of a for-profit  
migrant prison in  
Tacoma, Washington.

**This was his  
final message.**



**There's wrong  
and there's  
right.**

**It's time to take  
action against  
the forces of  
evil.**

Evil says one life is worth less than another.  
Evil says the flow of commerce is our purpose here.  
Evil says concentration camps for folks deemed  
lesser are necessary.

The handmaid of evil says the concentration camps  
should be more humane.  
Beware the centrist.

**I have a father's  
broken heart**

**I have a broken  
down body**

**And I have an  
unshakable  
abhorrence  
for injustice**

That is what brings me here.

This is my clear opportunity to try to make a difference,  
I'd be an ingrate to be waiting for a more obvious  
invitation.

I follow three teachers:

Don Pritts, my spiritual guide.

"Love without action is just a word."

John Brown, my moral guide.

"What is needed is action!"

Emma Goldman, my political guide.

"If I can't dance, I don't want  
to be in your revolution."

I'm a head in the clouds dreamer,

I believe in love and redemption.

I believe we're going to win.

I'm joyfully revolutionary. (We all should have been  
reading Emma Goldman in school instead of the  
jingo drivel we were fed, but I digress.) (We should  
all be looking at the photos of the YPG heroes should  
we falter and think our dreams are impossible, but I  
double digress. Fight me.)

In these days of fascist hooligans preying on vulnerable people in our streets, in the name of the state or supported and defended by the state,

In these days of highly profitable detention / concentration camps and a battle over the semantics,

In these days of hopelessness, empty pursuit and empty yearning,

We are living in visible fascism ascendant. (I say visible, because those paying attention watched it survive and thrive under the protection of the state for decades. [See Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States.] Now it unabashedly follows its agenda with open and full cooperation from the government. From governments around the world.)

Fascism serves the needs of the state serves the needs of business and at your expense. Who benefits? Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffet, Elon Musk, Tim Cook, Bill Gates, Betsy de Vos, George Soros, Donald Trump, and need I go on? Let me say it again: rich guys (who think you're not really all that good), really dig government (every government everywhere, including "communist" governments), because they make the rules that make rich guys richer.

Simple.

Don't overthink it.

(Are you patriots in the back paying attention?)

When I was a boy, in post-war Holland, later France, my head was filled with stories of the rise of fascism in the '30s. I promised myself that I would not be one of those who stands by as neighbors are torn from their homes and imprisoned for somehow being perceived as lesser.



**You don't  
have to burn the  
motherfucker  
down, but are  
you going to  
just stand by?**

This is the test of our fundamental belief in real freedom and our responsibility to each other.

This is a call to patriots, too, to stand against this travesty against everything that you hold sacred. I know you. I know that in your hearts, you see the dishonor in these camps. It's time for you, too, to stand up to the money pulling the strings of every goddamn puppet pretending to represent us.

**I'm a man who  
loves you all and  
this spinning  
ball so much  
that I'm going  
to fulfill my  
childhood  
promise to  
myself to  
be noble.**

Here it is, in these corporate *for profit* concentration camps. Here it is, in Brown and non-conforming folks afraid to show their faces for fear of the police/migra/Proud Boys/the boss/beckies...

Here it is, a planet almost used up by the market's greed.

**I'm a black and  
white thinker.**

**Detention  
camps are an  
abomination.**

**I'm not  
standing by.**

**I really shouldn't  
have to say any  
more than this.**

I set aside my broken heart and I heal the only way I know how—by being useful.

I efficiently compartmentalize my pain...

And I joyfully go about this work.

**(To those  
burdened with  
the wreckage  
from my actions,  
I hope that you  
will make the  
best use of that  
burden.)**

To my comrades:  
I regret that I will miss the rest of the revolution.  
Thank you for the honor of having me in your midst.

Giving me space to be useful,  
to feel that I was fulfilling my ideals,  
has been the spiritual pinnacle of my life.

Doing what I can to help defend  
my precious and wondrous people  
is an experience too rich to describe.

My trans comrades have transformed me, solidifying  
my conviction that we will be guided to a dreamed-  
of future by those most marginalized among us  
today. I have dreamed it so clearly that I have no  
regret for not seeing how it turns out. Thank you for  
bringing me so far along.

I am antifa. I stand with comrades around the world  
who act from the love of life in every permutation.

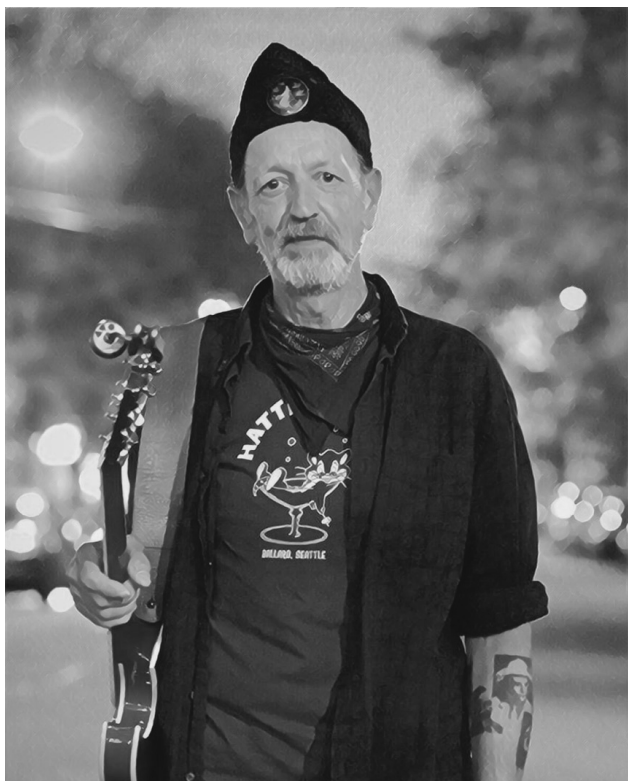
Comrades who understand that —



**freedom  
means real  
freedom  
for all**

**and a life  
worth living.**

Keep the faith!  
All power to the people!  
Bella ciao.



1950 – 2019

# Afterword

Partially adapted from CrimethInc's text:

[cwc.im/willem](http://cwc.im/willem)

In the places we live, immigration enforcement raids target our friends and neighbors, people who have lived alongside us for years or decades. As familiar faces vanish from our communities, the obedient Americans among us are convinced that this is the way things are supposed to be: entire families being disappeared to nameless prisons, sure – as long as it's obeying the letter of the law and we don't have to see it.

At the border, the survivors of a boundless, unforgiving desert are arrested and corralled into concentration camps. The survivors of the camps are then shipped away to detention centers – often privately owned, for-profit facilities. Some people grow rich off of federal contracts and the misery of migrant families. Some people throw children in concrete cells, collect a paycheck, and console themselves with the knowledge that they were “just doing their jobs”. An order is an order, after all – just ask the obedient,

law-abiding citizens who guarded the camps of 1940s Germany.

Law is what defines certain people as lesser. Law is what justifies every act that follows. Law is what keeps every camp running.

Willem van Spronsen was born in the Netherlands, shortly after that country's time under Nazism. He envisioned a world greater and kinder than any we might live to experience. He would still carry that hope in his heart while watching America reveal the terror and brutality at its core. His last act was to declare: **never again**.

Every person in this country has a choice between neutrality and partisanship; passivity and action; obedience and refusal.

To repeat a question:

You don't have to burn the motherfucker down, but are you just going to stand by?

For more on Willem van Spronsen,  
we have a few sources to recommend.

**To the Daring the Future Belongs**

Jack Fontanill – [communemag.com](http://communemag.com)

**An Unshakeable Abhorrence for Injustice**

Natasha Lennard – [communemag.com](http://communemag.com)

**On Willem van Spronsen's Action Against  
the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma**

CrimethInc. – [cwc.im/willem](http://cwc.im/willem)

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To this spinning ball, with love —  
Leveller Communications  
[leveller.info](http://leveller.info)



